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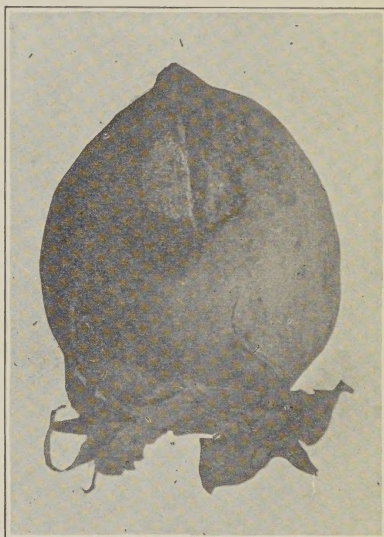
United States Department of Agriculture,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COTTON ANTHRACNOSE.

This disease appears to be the cause of most of the loss from rotting of cotton bolls. It is believed to be present in most fields throughout the cotton belt, and in some seasons the losses in certain localities have been very heavy.

Anthracnose appears on the bolls as dark spots, which enlarge and become somewhat sunken in the centers, which are pink or reddish-brown (see illustration). The affected lock fails to open, and often the entire boll decays. Anthracnose is worse in wet weather, in rank-growing cotton, and on some varieties. The disease also occurs on parts of the plant other than the bolls, though less conspicuously.

Anthracnose is caused by a fungus,¹ not by an insect, as the appearance of the spots leads many to believe. It is spread by the spores formed on the diseased areas and is carried over winter in infected seeds, and possibly also in old cotton plants.



Cotton boll with anthracnose.

¹ *Colletotrichum gossypii* Swth.

DECEMBER 26, 1907.

